BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

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POUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles Getz IV, PCR President and Trustee

The Board of Trustees meeting in Madison finalized a modest dues increase (National dues are now $32.00 a year) to cover mailing and other cost-of-living expenses. The Board does not like dues increases any more than the members and does not foresee any future major increases. As the cost of living dictates, however, it is necessary to impose modest increases to cover those increasing costs.

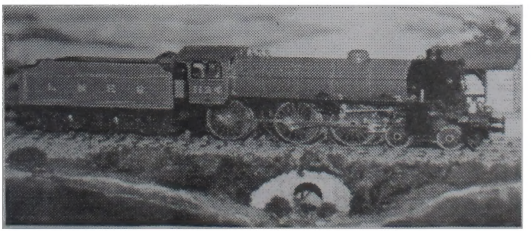
On a more positive note, it looks like we will close the year with a positive growth in our membership numbers and I feel increasingly that NMRA is getting back on track to its original vision – an organization setting the standards for the hobby and providing fun and benefits to members, emphasizing scale model railroading. Our tin-plate friends certainly have a home here as well but we are an organization primarily devoted to the advancement of scale model railroading. Over the years, we have become too serious and not fun oriented in my opinion. The long-range planning committee will be unveiling shortly, some needed adjustments to the organization which would de-emphasize the political end and reemphasize the "fun" and learning end. Ron Gaines in the technical department is doing an outstanding job in developing new standards and enforcing old ones through conformance warrants.

On the local front, we continue to make progress. My call for volunteers resulted in a welcome although slightly tepid response. We now have potential volunteers to act as O scale and Large scale coordinators, but I am still looking for more volunteers. If you can spare a little time, please contact me at the address in the Callboard on page 2 of this newsletter.

Ted Culotta, the Coast Division Membership Chair recently came up with a brilliant idea. He is actively seeking people in Coast Division who wish to sponsor a home clinic to be held in the evenings or on weekends at a members home with perhaps 10-12 PCR members attending. The purposes of these "clinics" would be to provide a more hands-on approach toward teaching of skills on various subjects outside the constraints of a meeting room. In other words, a benchwork clinic could result in PCR members actually assisting in building benchwork and learning the various techniques from that effort.

I will be signing up to offer a laser-cut kit clinic and hope to work with up to 10 members (the first ten who sign up) on a hands-on approach in constructing laser kits by providing free laser kits courtesy of American Model Builders. Please don't call yet until you see the official announcement. Ideas like this will no doubt generate much more interest in the PCR and I applaud Ted for this concept. Let's hope it spreads.

These kinds of ideas – sharing information, learning new skills, working with new friends and old are what makes the PCR so effective. Indeed, that's what the NMRA is all about. Whether it is preserving the history of our hobby with the Howell Day Museum, which is now accepting donations (please call me if you have anything to donate immediately) or preserving our written record in the Kalmbach Library or setting the standards for G scale and beyond, NMRA is the organization that uniquely can do all of this. It deserves your support and that of your friends. I hope that you will not only renew your membership when appropriate but your commitment to this organization. It really is turning back to a wonderful group of friends, as it always has been.



First Place-Steam Locomotive-Open, Scott Maze (106 Points) at 1997 PCR contest in Bakersfield. This O-Scale LNER B-1 4-6-0 was modeled and photographed by Scott as it looked circa 1947. The model began as a Piercy Model Products flat brass kit and Scott indicates it is the most complete and sophisticated he has yet seen. Scott is a perennial winner at PCR and NMRA contests with his exquisite locomotives.

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ERATTA

In the Editor's Desk column last month I inadvertantly misspelled the name of my friend and fellow PCR member who recognized me in Norway. That should have been **Bob Warner**. Bob, please excuse my wayward fingers.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Jack Burgess, MMR,
PCR Achievement Chair

As indicated in the last issue of the Branch Line, there are eleven categories in the Achievement Program – Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Prototype Models, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Chief Dispatcher, NMRA Official, NMRA Volunteer, and Author. Certificates can be earned by completing the requirements of that particular category.

For some modelers, the requirements of the Achievement Program can seem intimidating. The Golden Spike Program requires demonstration of modeling skills in only three areas – rolling stock, the setting, and engineering. The Golden Spike Program is thus a good way to get your "feet wet" with the Achievement Program.

The "rolling stock" category requires completion of six (6) models (motive power or cars) which can be scratchbuilt, craftsman kits, or detailed commercial kits.

The "setting" category can be satisfied by constructing a minimum of eight (8) square feet of layout. There must be at least five (5) structures on the layout, which must be scratchbuilt, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits. If there are less than five structures, additional ones separate from scene can be used.

Finally, the "engineering" (civil and electrical) category requires the completion of three (3) three types of trackage (turnout, crossing, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on a proper roadbed. Whilehand-laid track can be used, commercial trackage may also be used. All of the installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously by using a double-track main or a single-track main with sidings using either block or command control. One additional electrical feature, such as powered turnouts, signal-ing turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc., must also be provided.

As indicated by this short list, many modelers have already completed these requirements and need only to complete an application in order to be awarded a Golden Spike Award. Your Divisional AP Chairman can verify completion of the requirements. Attach a photocopy of your NMRA membership card and the application is complete! An application for a Golden Spike Award is included on page 19 of this Branch Line. Once you have this Award "under your belt", you can use this same work, with either some refinement or additional effort, as the start of your efforts for several Achievement Awards.

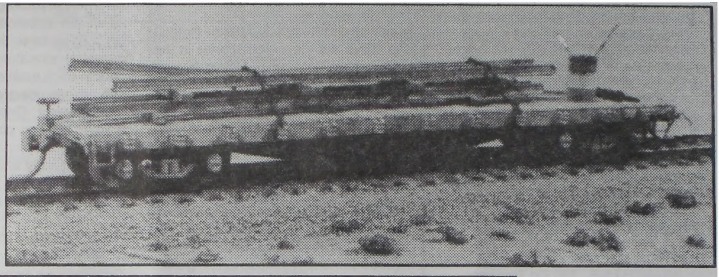
I am happy to report that eight more AP Certificates have been awarded by the Achievement Program Chairman to PCR members. Judith B. Mallchock, the AP Chairman for the Hawaii Division, has been awarded a certificate for Association Volunteer. Boone Morrison also from the Hawaii Division, was awarded his third Certificate, this time for Author for his articles in the *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*. Kermit Paul, of the Coast Division, has been busy documenting his achievements and has been awarded three certificates for Master Builder - Scenery, Author, and Chief Dispatcher. Another Coast Division member, Clayton Barry, has also been very busy and has been awarded certificates for Author, Master Builder - Scenery, and Master Builder - Structures!

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address, and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board on Page 2 of the Branch Line.

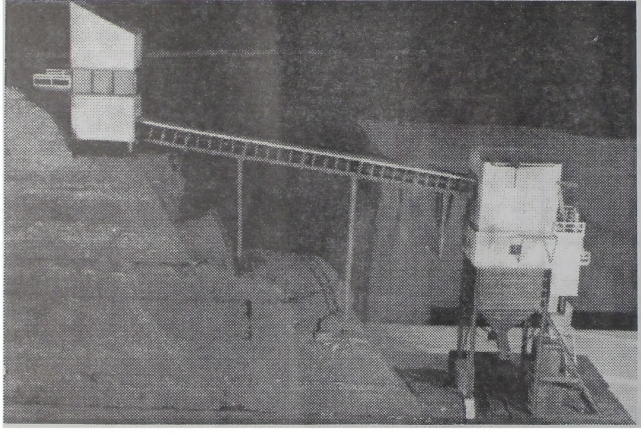
A group of 1997 PCR Convention Clinicians from left Glenn Joesten, Bill Schaumberg, Sandy Friedfeld, Kermit Paul, Jim Providenza, Joe D'Elia, Allen McClelland, Bob Winans and Dave Biondi. The Clinics at Bakersfield were awesome!
Photo by Brewster Bird

MORE PCR 1997 CONTEST MODELS

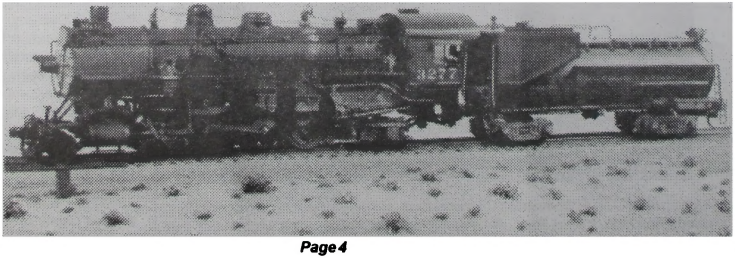
Photos by Richard Hendrickson



Maintenance of Way - Kit - First Place, Bob Warner, Union Pacific Flat Car with rail load.

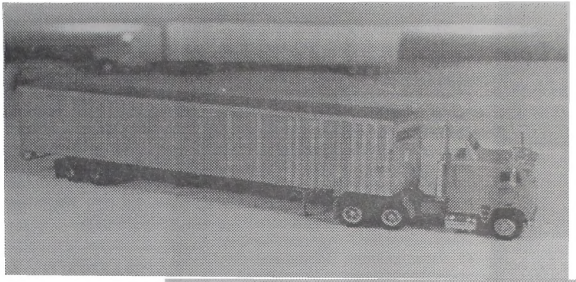


Structure - Novice - First Place, Jim Providenza Coal Mine and Tipple.



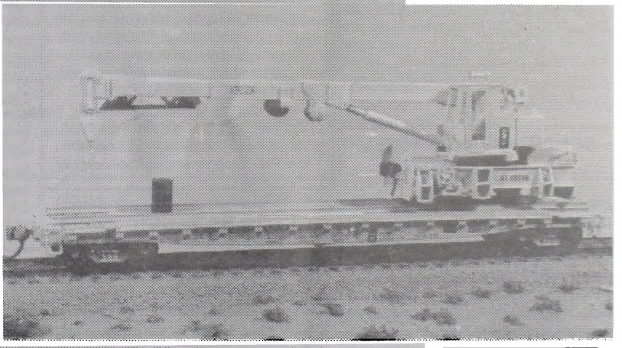
Steam Locomotive - Kit - Frist Place, Rudi von Prittwitz Southern Pacific 2-8-2 #3277.

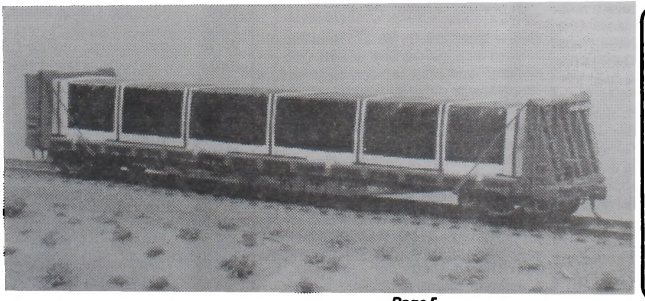
The RPM meet during the PCR Convention in Bakersfield was a great success. On this page are more photos of models entered into the RPM display, showing a wide range of interests and great modeling talent. All photos and captions this page by Richard Hendrickson.



Joe D'Elia built and custom-painted this colorful blue and silver big rig by using a Herpa model of a Mack tractor, an A-line trailer kit, and A-line decals.

Steve and Cindy Priest are both talented modelers who visited the PCR Convention all the way from Kansas City (another reason to attend next years NMRA Convention). This Santa Fe Wt-W flat car in maintenance of way service with a Burro crane mounted on its deck was kitbashed from a Walthers kit with all lettering in the form of home made decals.





Charlie Slater is very familiar with Santa Fe protopype equipment, he's a Santa Fe trainman who lives in Bakersfield and has an impressive collection of models. He scratchbuilt this Santa Fe Ft-L flat car as rebuilt in the 1940's with extended length and end bulkheads. The load represents plastic-wrapped sheet gypsum wallboard.

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DIVISION AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

CARMEL TRAIN SHOW

The Annual Carmel Train Show will be held November 8 & 9 at the Crossroads Shopping center Mall located conveniently on Highway #1 at Rio Road in Carmel, California. The show hours on Saturday, November 8th are 10 AM - 6 PM and Sunday, November 9th 11 AM to 5 PM. The Show is presented by the Gorre & Daphetid Operators, Monterey Salinas Valley Model Railroaders and the Monterey Peninsula Garden Railway Society. Admission is free. For more information contact Allan Fenton (408) 624-5021

TRI-CITIES MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The Tri-Cities Club meets in the restored Niles Depot at 36997 Mission Blvd., Fremont. The club has both N and HO scale layouts. The HO layout is being rebuilt. Members in both scales are welcome. Work nights are Friday, the business meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the Month and operating session are on the 1st and 3rd Sunday. For more information contact Stanley Keiser on (510) 791-1504.

LOMPOC VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

The LOMPOC VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY invites everyone to attend their semi-annual Christmas open house. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 13th and 14th, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 428 North I Street in Lompoc. It will feature a large HO scale operating layout and various other gauge displays. The admission is **FREE** and children of all ages are welcome. Come and join us during this year's Christmas season and rediscover the thrill of model railroading. For more information please contact Jim Scott at (805) 736-1480.

PENINSULA MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Established in 1947, the Peninsula Model Railroad is celebrating its 50th year in association with the San Mateo County Expo Center and Fairgrounds. In honor of the Golden Anniversary, special activities and promotions were held during the 1997 San Mateo County Fair.

The PMRR "California Northern" layout is 32X60 in HO scale. Located in Redwood Hall, it is a generic era model of Northern California from the Coastal Redwoods to the Sierra Snowsheds. The mainline is over 700' of hand laid track with branch lines (some dual gauge) and large yards.

The club meets on Friday evenings and new members are welcome. Prospective new members and visitors are invited to stop down on a Friday evening after 8PM, except for the second Friday of each month. That day is set aside for the business meeting when we are typically not open or operating. For more information call the layout at (650) 345-2294 or Kerry Cochran, President, at (650) 952-7127.

SOUTH BAY HISTORICAL RAILROAD SOCIETY

The South Bay Historical Railroad Society invites everyone, young and old, to attend our Fall Open House on Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd, 1997, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days, in the historic Santa Clara CalTrain Depot, 1005 Railroad Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. Featured will be our large HO and N scale operating layouts, as well as live full-size railroading action just outside the building. Also featured will be our museum of interesting railroad artifacts, including working signals. Fares are $2.00 for adults, $.50 for children up to 12 years old and $5.00 for families. Phone (408) 243-3969.

GOLDEN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

January 17th & 18th - Bakersfield, Golden Empire Model Railroad Club's Annual After Christmas Train Show, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South "P" Street, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, both days. $3.00 admission, kids 12 and under free. Raffle drawing for a HO scale layout and hourly door prizes. Contact Doug Wagner at 805-589-0391.

The Peninsula Model Railroad Club holds a switching contest during Kid's Day at the San Mateo County Fair. About 35 kids participated in this years contest in August '97. Here are this years winners with their prizes. In the rear are Steve Smith and Jesus Pena, PMRR members. Prizes were donated by area hobby shops. Photo by Hans Haselbach

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MORE MEMBERSHIP SHOW BOOTHS

by Carl "Tiny" Carsten, PCR Membership Promotion Chairman

Here I am again with a request for help, as president Charlie Getz says, "I need help". Help that is, at all the Train Shows. Members surely must have a few days to devote to promoting the hobby, the PCR and the NMRA. Last year at the GATS meet in Santa Barbara, Bill Everett put in the two days alone. I'm surprised no one in the Santa Barbara area has time to help. Well, they have that chance again on January 3 & 4, 1998. Please someone, help the hobby and our organization out.

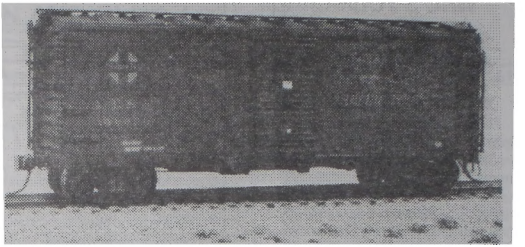
Besides the Great American Train Shows, we now also have the Greenberg Train Shows to work on. We are confirmed for three shows. They will be at the San Mateo Convention Center on December 6 & 7, 1997 and again there on December 5 & 6 1998. We also have space at the Greenberg Show on January 3 & 4, 1998 in San Rafael at the Marin Center. I hope members won't let me down on these added shows, so that we are able to get a booth space in the future. If you can help at any of the shows (see also last issue of the Branch Line page 10 or the Region Train Orders on page 20 of this issue for the GATS show dates) please let me know who you are as soon as possible, so I can send the information to you.

Carl W. Carsten
579 - 28th Street
San Francisco, CA 94131-2219

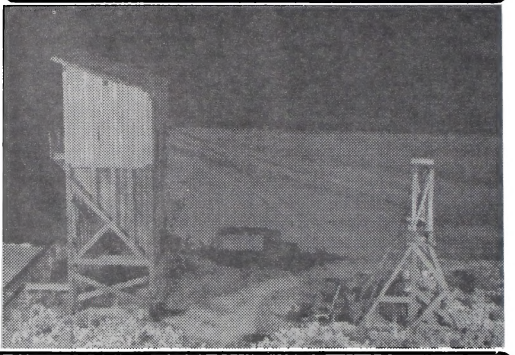
For the GATS shows you can also notify your Division Membership Chairman, and for the Marin show notify Gus Campagna. I thank you all for your cooperation in helping me.

PCR HOBBY DIRECTORY

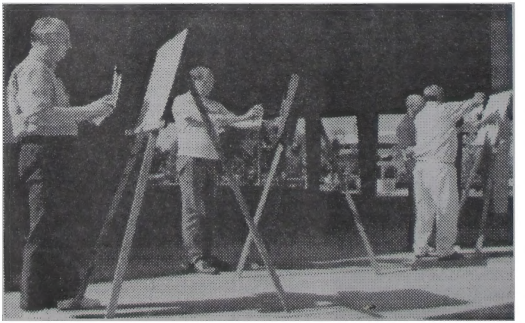
The Pacific Coast Region will publish a directory of railroad related information for our area including hobby shops, model railroad clubs, tourist trains and museums, railroad oriented restaurants and lodging sites, railfan locations, railroad scanner frequencies and possibly private layouts. Members interested in helping on this project are asked to contact the PCR Directory Chairperson, Denise Showalter, 132 Westfield Circle, Danville, CA 94526, (510) 820-4736.



PCR 1997 Model Contest, Above: Freight Car - Kit - First Place, Richard Hendrickson ATSF Bx-34 Box Car. Below: Display - Open - First Place, Bob Hyman, Omega Uranium Ore Tipple. Photos by Richard Hendrickson



Hey, the spray fumes are getting overpowering around here! Clouds are the result though, and they look great at Biondi and Providenza's clinic. Photo by Rod Smith



Made in the PCR

RAILROAD COMPUTER FONTS

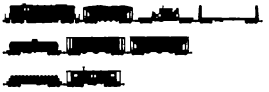
Review by Dave Connery

Seems like work on the Branch Line and other Railroading and Model Railroading administrative activities eats up most of my modeling time. Here is a locally manufactured railroading product I can use when I'm working on my computer. For those not used to working on computers, fonts are different types of print styles. With a Macintosh or Microsoft Windows (IBM) operating system you can effortlessly change fonts in your work. As an example, the text in the Branch Line is normally 10 point Arial, with headings 12 or 14 point and done in bold print. A few clicks of my mouse and I can change it to any of over 330 fonts I have loaded on my computer and change the point size to nearly anything I could ever want from too small to read to about a letter a page! It is all very flexible and easy. Now Benn Coifman has used this capability and developed a unique railroad product of over 30 font sets.

First, he has Railroad Lettering Fonts, scaleable fonts exactly emulating Railroad Roman, Northern Pacific, Southern Pacific, New York Central, Union Pacific, Empire Builder, Zephyr, City of, Seaboard, Atlantic Coast Line and New Haven, Burlington and Gotthard (Swiss Railroads). If you want to make your correspondence look any of these prototypes, now you can. Also, you can make your own decals on a computer using any of these print styles! Here is an example of Railroad Roman in 12 point:

RAILROAD ROMAN

But going far beyond just letter fonts, Benn has developed fonts that instead of letters print out various railroad symbols. For example, one font set prints out silhouettes of a freight car for each letter typed, another heavyweight passenger cars, another streamliners, another transit vehicles, another different EMD F-unit face designs, another 1880 Steam trains and finally several sets of fonts where each letter is either riding on a flat car, printed on a boxcar side or on the side of a passenger car. Here is what you get when you type **qpabhmkjBx** in Freight Car:



And when you type **XDHAR** in Steam Heavyweight you get:

Beyond just different types of cars he has font sets that print out various railroad signal staffs, railroad signs, railroad dingbats (clip art items), railroad heralds, track symbols (layout design?) and many others including street signs, cars and trucks, airplanes. For example by typing **ylreu** in RR Signs you get:

and by typing **AxsDLgK** in Railroad Heralds you get:

You can get a list of all the fonts with prices (ranging from $10 to $20 per font set) by sending a SASE to Benn Coifman, 2483 Hearst Ave. #200-G, Berkeley CA 94709. If you are connected to the web, many of these fonts are down load-able at **http://robotics.eecs.berkeley.edu/~zephyr/font-intro.html** Remember, this is shareware and if you down load a set of fonts from Benn's home page and install them on your computer then you are obligated to send him $10 for each font. He has put a lot of effort and ingenuity into these neat font packages, please don't try to rip him off.

MODESTO CLINICS

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Review by Dave Connery

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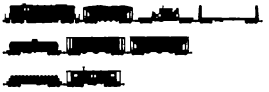

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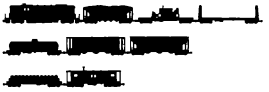

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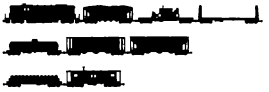

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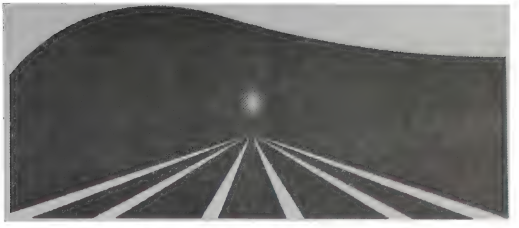
A VISIT TO MADISON (cont. from p. 13)

It would be impossible to list everything these conventions offer. Let me just say in closing, Katie and I have submitted our registrations for Kansas City next year, and are looking forward to going. Madison will be a hard act to follow, but I am sure the KC folks are up to it. Lots more prototype railroading in KC too. The conventions we have attended have allowed us, not only to indulge our interests in modeling, but have taken us to parts of the country we would have been unlikely to visit otherwise. It is amazing the wonderful sights this land contains. We've seen wonderful gardens, historic homes and mansions, beautiful countryside with more Kudzu than I would have believed existed, historic battlefields, amazing museums, you name it. Even a replica of Columbus' Flag ship on the Scioto River of all places. Won't you consider joining us next year? It is intense model railroading, but there is the opportunity for lots of non-railroad activity too, if you prefer. If you go to Kansas City, look for us and say Hi. I know we'll be there.



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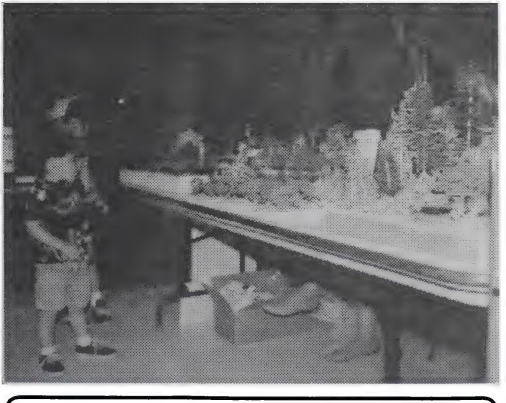

Some unidentified future customers admire Charlie Piggots "Okie Dokie Oak Trees" at the Bakersfield Show. Now those aren't Charlies legs under the table are they? Photo by Rod Smith

21st Century Limited Manpower Committee
David Biondi, Chairman

COMMITMENT: **A pledge to do something**.

The 1997 National Convention in Madison is behind us and only two Nationals remain before **The 21st Century Limited** arrives in San Jose. As the manpower chairman I have made a commitment to attend the 1998 National Convention in Kansas City, to learn more about the job and the manpower needs to get the job done.

This is where you come in, I will need volunteers to make a commitment to help with the various committees and jobs. At this juncture, nothing is set in stone, so it is wide open for volunteers. Give me a call at the number listed below or drop me a line. I will do what I can to accommodate your likes and desires.

Please don't feel like you have to have experience working on a National Convention to volunteer. You don't! I have worked on regional conventions but I have not worked on or attended on a national convention.

If you would like to volunteer to assist at the National Convention in San Jose in 2000, please call me at (510) 656-4256, or send a post card to 1915 Lockwood Avenue, Fremont, CA 94539.

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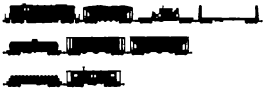

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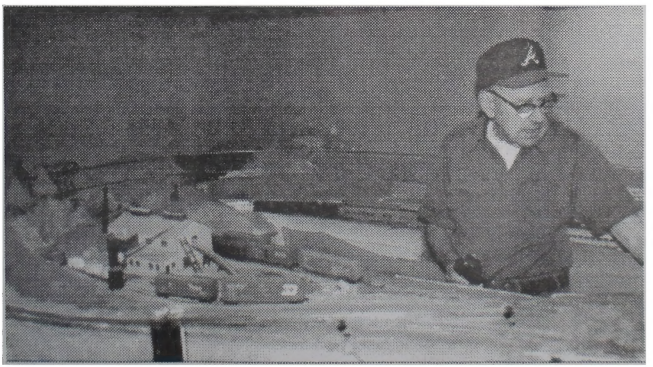
DAYLIGHT DIVISION

by Bob Randall, Superintendent

I hope that we showed you our best side when you were here for the convention in May. We love to show off our area and our railroading history, so come on down. We had a great division meet in Merced in August, hosted by Charlie and Babette Piggott, who put on an excellent chili cook-off that was enjoyed by all in attendance. Charlie's super eastern coal layout was open to the public along with a great narrow gauge portable layout. After the social time, auction and business meeting, we then went to see two fine model railroad layouts— Jim North's HO layout and Rudi von Pritwitz' top notch SP layout. We're really looking forward to our division meet in November in SANTA BARBARA. Can you imagine a finer location than the Riviera of the Pacific. You're all invited to attend. So bring the wives— what a vacation spot with plenty of 5-star hotels and beautiful shops to keep the whole family busy. When it comes to the weather, there couldn't be a more wonderful location. There are a lot of layouts in the area and we'll be trying to put together a fine home layout tour. See you then. For more information contact Doug Wagner at 805-589-0391 or Bob Randall at 805-328-1585.

Above and below - Scenes from the PCR Annual Meeting on Sunday during the Convention in Balkersfield . Photos by Dave Connery



Here's Bob Updyke surrounded by his 10 X 20 layout. Bob graciously let us visit his 30 years old pike during the Bakersfield Convention. The layout was recently rescenicced and looks pretty good, as does Bob, who is 92 years young! Who says model railroading can't keep you young!

Photo by Rod Smith

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